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Online kindergarten info sessions scheduled

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools would like to invite you to join them during one of their virtual kindergarten information sessions. Sessions will be held Tuesday, July 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 22 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. virtually. This is the perfect opportunity for parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in the fall to learn more about kindergarten. Rebecca Lamb, Enrollment Center Manager, will be available to answer any questions. The sessions will be held via Zoom.

ONLINE, 5

UCC Holyoke launches YouTube channel

HOLYOKE – It is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and that is certainly the case with the United Congregational Church of Holyoke. Necessity has resulted in the creation of their very own YouTube channel, which airs live worship services every Sunday at 10 a.m.

UCC, 8

Opportunity Academy awarded \$250,000 grant

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public School District's Opportunity Academy (OA) has been awarded a \$250,000 Barr Foundation grant. The funds will be used to support the pilot and continued planning year for OA's Maple Street Campus, as part of Cohort 3 in the Engage New England initiative. This follows receipt of a \$150,000 grant from the same initiative for its design year (2019-2020 school year).

GRANT, 11

School meals program continue

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public School System recently announced their summer meal program for this year. Considering the damage that COVID-19 has done during the school year, it's probable that families will continue to need help with food and meals.

The Summer Feeding program began on June 22, and there are multiple sites in order for more families to access this program. Locations include Dr. Marcella R. Kelly School, William G. Morgan School,

See MEALS, page 5

ZRIKE COMPLETES TENURE



Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Stephen Zrike completed his tenure with the Holyoke Public Schools this week. Zrike was the receiver for the past five years, guiding the schools through the first part of its rebuilding plan. Zrike will be moving to be the superintendent of Salem High School on the other side of the state.

Submitted photo

McMahon's Ewick calls it a career

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Principle of Holyoke's Lt. Elmer J. McMahon School, Noreen Ewick, is retiring this year after being the principal for five years. Though that was not the only experience she's had in education, as

she taught science and social studies at McMahon before becoming principal.

Ewick's educational career has been a long and diverse one.

She taught in the Parochial System at St. Patrick's School in Chicopee for seven years before moving to Holyoke in 1999. Ewick

began working at William R. Peck School as a Science teacher for seven years, transferred to McMahon for seven years adding social studies to her class load. She then worked as assistant principal at Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School for two years before heading back to McMahon to be principal.

"It's kind of a funny story, because I was the assistant principal at Sullivan first," said Ewick. "Then when I went back to McMahon was when Dr. Zrike came on as the receiver. We were both coming into new positions at the same time so we were able to really work together."

Ewick explained that as a principal she had a mission and a goal that was specific to her position. She said that her mantra was that 'we're all in a boat together, we're all in the same group, and we have the same goal. If one person falls or goes down, then the whole



There were celebrations for those retiring from the Holyoke Public Schools to end the year.

Submitted photo

See EWICK, page 11

Mayor Morse comments on Soldiers Home recent report

HOLYOKE – The following is a statement from Mayor Alex Morse on the Soldiers Home Report that was released last week and the subsequent press conference held by Governor Baker.

"I find little solace in the report commissioned by Governor Baker regarding the Holyoke Soldiers Home or even the subsequent press conference. While I generally concur with the findings, there is no amount of reporting, resignations, or renovations that will bring back the heroes we have lost. We know today what those responsible for caring for our veterans should have known back in March, that the novel Coronavirus is a danger to our community, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. The lack of preparation for dealing with this virus is inexcusable.

My hope is that we can honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice by vastly improving the quality of care for those in need. Not only is the Soldiers Home building in need of an upgrade; the way our state and country approaches health care needs an upgrade too. I have never heard a complaint about the nurses, CNA's or other frontline workers who cared for these veterans, yet

See REPORT, page 5



McMahon School is lit up with a special message to retiring Principal Noreen Ewick.

Rosemary Saccomani to run for Register of Probate

SPRINGFIELD – Rosemary Saccomani of Agawam is announcing her candidacy for Hampden County Register of Probate. Rosemary is a lifelong Democrat with 30 years of professional experience working in the Hampden County Probate office. For 18 years she has served as Deputy Assistant Register.

“I am running for this elected position because it requires much more than mere administrative capabilities,” said Rosemary Saccomani. “The Register of Probate requires active and flexible leadership to innovate essential improvements to the office throughout these challenging times; it requires a profound knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the Probate office; it requires effective managerial com-



Rosemary Saccomani

petence to adjust to the changing technological processes and timely delivery of services during and after this pandemic. I believe I possess these qualifications in abundance to serve all Hampden County residents as their Register of Probate.”

The Registry of Probate’s office is responsible as the official keeper of the records and the day to day operation of the county’s Probate & Family Court. The Family Court deals

with issues such as adoptions, estates, divorce, guardianship, custody, child support, name changes and abuse preventions. Rosemary has 30 years of professional experience working in the Probate office and has performed as a Case Coordinator/Team leader, Administrative Assistant, and Sessions Clerk. In 2012, she was appointed

MUPC Magistrate. Her professional experiences also include Adjunct Instructor at Westfield University and certification as a Family Court Mediator.

The current Hampden County Register of Probate is not running for re-election and the seat is open. Saccomani has filed papers with the Secretary of State to be placed on the ballot this fall in the Democratic primary.

“As Register of Probate, I will be passionately committed to the operation of the office,” said Saccomani. “I will activate my knowledge of probate matters and common-sense approach to make the office user-friendly for all the diverse residents of Hampden County. As your Register of Probate, I will be visible and accessible to all residents of Hampden County.”

Rosemary was born in Springfield to Salvatore and Maureen Scibelli and grew up in Agawam with her broth-

er Andrew Scibelli and sister Marissa Scibelli Greider. She is a proud mother of two sons—Michael, a special education teacher, and Anthony, a mental health counselor. She is an active participant in the community having served as a member of the Agawam Democratic Town Committee, Make a Wish Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and President of St. Stanislaus School PTO in Chicopee.

“I am passionate about the Hampden County Probate Office and I love the job”, Saccomani says. “With 30 years’ experience in the Probate office and 18 years as Deputy, I am uniquely qualified for this position. As the Hampden County Register of Probate, I will serve with integrity; I will lead with confidence; I will manage with professionalism. I will be ready to start on day one.”

The primary election will take place on September 1, 2020.

HCC announces dean’s list for spring 2020 semester

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean’s List. A student is placed on the Dean’s List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean’s List honors for the Spring 2020 semester.

From Holyoke: Annmarie Rose Arduino, Angely Ann Arroyo, Katelyn Bacon, Faith Helen Ballard, Kyle Berthiaume, Kaylee Skye Bishop, Jovanni Javier Camacho, Taeghan Donohue Cavanaugh, Grace Adrien Chartier, Vilmaris Cintron, Robert Clark, Karina Amirriss Clemente, Yelitza Colon, Javier Enrique Correa, Lindsay Marie Cournoyer, Katelynn Cruz, Chamile Antonia Cruz, Danielle Marie DaSilva, Richard Enrique De Jesus Vicente, Nico Agostino DeMaio, Jordan Reese Dudas, Erik Anderson Duni, Jonathan David Engle, Zachary Sean Erwin-Stevens, April Giovanna Estrada, Emmanuela Filev-Mihalak, Thomas James Fournier Jr., Isabella Garbiel-Achorn, Tiffany Marie Garcia, Stacy Gillett, Mary Katherine Glasheen, Elizabeth Ann Greco, Boram Ha, Darya Sojourner Hamin, Emma Jerise Kane, Michael Francis Kane II, Laney Madison Kleszczynski, Alexandra Yurievna Kuznetsova, Hannah

Lee Labreche, Emmalee Kate Lazuk, Aida Angelica Lema Portes, Tina Marie Lundwall, Calvin J. Martindale, Jeannie M. Martindale, Marilyn Martinez, Jeannette Mendez, Nanette Marie Mendieta I, Brenden Russell Meyer, Erica Morales, Caitlin Mary O’Connor, Selena Mariny Om, Andrew Stephen Orsini, Kayra Michelle Ortiz, Jazmin Ortiz, Sage Pasquale, Caitlyn Cynthia Paul, Jason Yamil Perez, Sarah Elizabeth Petrowicz, Robert John Pomerleau, Natalia Postoeva, Jhoiner Sebastian Quintero, Nathan A. Racine, Nathalie Ramos, Erick Joel Rivera-Gonzalez, Luis Antonio Rodriguez, Alexis Rodriguez, Judeliz Rodriguez, Adelaida Rodriguez, Synell Marie Rodriguez, Monica Marie Rosa, Estrella M. Rosario, Jessica R. Ryder Toomey, Oscar Ivan Salamanca, Samacha Sam, Cecilia Maria Sanchez, Alexandra Isabelle Santiago, Emma Kathleen Schlegel, Feroze Johnny Sibdhanny, Alexis Nicole Smith, Christopher Allan Solano, Alexandra Rose Sullivan, Mary M. Tapia, Alice Teele, Alexander Daryn Tejada, Tallon Tomasi, Zaiell Charlyze Vargas I, Jarineth Velez Torres, Christine Winberg, Eric Wood, Kelsey Wresien, Nathan Luke Wytrwal.

Bacon Wilson announces Chrzanowski as new associate

SPRINGFIELD – Bacon Wilson is pleased to announce that Attorney Erin R. Chrzanowski has joined the firm. Attorney Chrzanowski is an associate and a member of the firm’s business and corporate practice group, where she works on matters related to commercial real estate and financing. In addition, Attorney Chrzanowski was recently elected to serve on the board of the Revitalize Community Development Corporation in Springfield. Prior to joining Bacon Wilson, Erin attended Syracuse University College of Law, earning her J.D. in 2019, and the University of Massachusetts



Erin R. Chrzanowski

Amherst’s Isenberg School of Management, earning her B.B.A. cum laude in 2017. She is licensed to practice in both Massachusetts and New York.

Founded in 1895, Bacon Wilson, P.C. is one of the largest firms in the Pioneer Valley, with 43 lawyers, and approximately 60 paralegals, administrative assistants, and support staff. From five locations – Springfield, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton, and Westfield –

Bacon Wilson represents clients throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut with comprehensive legal services. For more information, visit www.baconwilson.com.

Kiley Lamagdeleine graduates from Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, SC – Kiley Lamagdeleine, a marketing major from Holyoke, MA, graduated from Coastal Carolina University in the Spring 2020.

Coastal Carolina University

launched its first virtual commencement ceremony on Friday, May 8, at 6 p.m., featuring a recorded message from alumnus and Emmy-nominated actor Michael Kelly.

Coalition changes name to highlight advocacy for soldiers

Group calls on state to ensure ‘Voices Must Be Heard’ for improvements to Home

HOLYOKE – A grassroots organization that developed earlier this month to petition the state for significant capital improvements to the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke has rebranded its efforts under a new name that incorporates their broader effort to provide greater advocacy on behalf of Veteran residents at the Soldiers’ Home and their family members.

Formerly known at the Fund Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Now coalition, the group has renamed itself the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Coalition with a new web page that can be found at www.holyokesoldiershomecoalition.org.

Coalition members include Veteran leaders, family members, Veteran services’ representatives and concerned citizens, including former Soldiers’ Home Superintendent Paul Barabani and former Deputy Superintendent John Paradis. They have called on the Baker-Polito Administration to address significant concerns they have with the state’s plan to improve the operations and oversight of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

A major focus for the coalition is to ensure that they are included in the

discussion with the state before major reforms or construction plans go forward.

An outreach effort must include a process for the state to receive feedback and consensus from family members and from the Veteran community in western Massachusetts. This is our first and most important demand of the administration.

A detailed list of recommendations to the state are listed on the organization’s web page.

“We, the members of the Coalition to Fund the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Now, demand a voice on all matters regarding the future of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke. Our voices must be heard. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home, the reforms outlined will have consequences far reaching for Veterans and their family members for years to come and we appeal to Governor Baker to include our input before moving forward. We, as a Commonwealth, must get this right if we are to move forward from the tragedy that resulted in the deaths of 76 Veterans. Their family members deserve to be heard, and we as citizens call on the Governor to hear our voices.”

For more information about the group’s membership, mission and vision visit <https://www.HolyokeSoldiersHomeCoalition.org>



Graduation set for next month

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School graduation is delayed, but is set to take place next month on Sunday, Aug. 2.

Graduation is normally the first Sunday in June, but has been delayed to hopefully have fewer restrictions of an in-person graduation.

Sign up for Library’s Summer Reading program

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library is excited to announce that this summer we’ll be using Beanstack to run our virtual 2020 Summer Reading Program!

Running from June 29 to August 11, there are challenges available for children, teenagers, and adults. By logging how many minutes you read over the summer and participating in challenge activities, you have the chance to earn badges, tickets, and prizes!

For more information about what challenges are available to you, please visit holyokelibrary.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack Tracker app and register through the Holyoke Public Library. Those unable to use the online platform can register for the summer reading program by calling the library at 413-420-8105.



The Summer Reading program is set to begin at Holyoke Public Library. Submitted photo

Big E cancelled due to pandemic

SPRINGFIELD – The staff and trustees of Eastern States Exposition have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Big E for the safety of our fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors, suppliers and the broader community according to a press release Monday.

There is precedent in the Exposition’s 104-year history when the fair was put on hold during WWI and for five years during WWII. We’ve made it through difficult times before...the Flood of 1936... the Hurricane of 1938 and, 9-11, and together “we’ll get through these unprecedented times as well,” according to the press release.

“We know our faithful fairgoers will be disappointed,” the release reads. “This decision was difficult and complex but we all know in our hearts that it’s the right thing to do for the health and safety of the 1.6 million people who support us each year.”

The next Big E will be from September 17 to October 3, 2021.

All purchases for the Zach Williams concert, scheduled for September 20, will be refunded in full. The Big E Box Office will be contacting ticket purchasers directly.

Evans named to 2020 spring semester Springfield College Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has named Katherine Evans from Holyoke, MA to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Evans is studying Sports Biology.



John Shea was the recipient of the 2020 Nate Hale award. Submitted photo

Shea receives Hale award

HOLYOKE – Each year the Western Mass Track and Field Officials Association is honored to recognize an outstanding senior male track and field athlete with the Nate Hale Award. The athletes who have been nominated for these awards not only excel on the track, but also in the classroom. It is however, their exceptional school and community service that makes each athlete worthy of the award. The Nate Hale Award consists of a plaque and monetary gift.

Nate Hale taught general science and agriculture at Arms Academy and Mohawk Trail. He was one of the founders of the Western Mass Track and Field Officials Association. This award is presented to an outstanding senior male who has competed in track and field for at least two years. He is being recognized for his athletic performance in track and field, sportsmanship, team leadership and service to his school and community.

This year 2 outstanding athletes were nominated for this award: Simon LaClaire from Northampton and John Shea from Holyoke

The recipient of the 2020 Nate Hale Award is John Shea from Holyoke.

Meals program to continue into summer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools Summer Feeding Program will begin on Monday, June 22. We will be serving Breakfast, Lunch, Snack and Dinner at Kelly, Morgan, Lawrence, Donahue, HHS North and Sullivan school from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday’s and Friday’s. Tuesday’s meals will be distributed on Monday, Thursday meals will be distributed on Wednesday and Saturday and Sunday meals will be distributed on Friday. View the flyer.

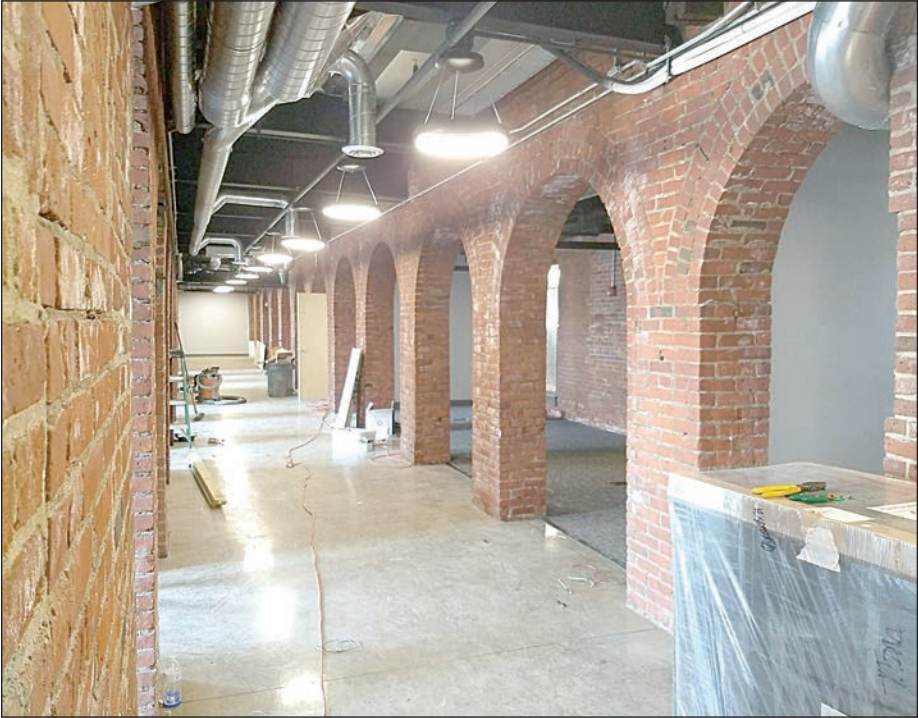
HPS food distribution sites will be closed on July 3, in observance of July 4, and open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday that week. Friday, July 3 meals will be distributed on Thursday, July 2. The regular, Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule will resume the week after.

Aegis Energy completes new headquarters renovation at former Parsons Paper site

HOLYOKE – Aegis Energy, EDF Group, LLC recently completed the renovation of its new Holyoke headquarters at 84 Sargeant Street. In 2016 Aegis partnered with the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to rehabilitate and develop the site. Aegis first expressed interest in the property to the HRA at an October, 2014 meeting. At that meeting, Lee Vardakas, owner of Aegis, explained that acquiring the property would allow for the company’s expansion from its existing 55 Jackson Street location. Aegis, which makes, sells, services and finances combined heat and power engines, was founded in 1985 and located to Holyoke in 2005.

84 Sargeant Street is a 4.6 acre site situated between two canals and is one of the ten areas designated for redevelopment in the HRA’s Urban Renewal Plan. The site was first developed in the late 1800’s and was known as Parsons Paper Mill until the facility closed in 2004. In 2008, a fire significantly destroyed a majority of the abandoned building’s structures, and the City officially took ownership of the property in 2012. It has taken over a decade to clean up and remediate the site for redevelopment. In 2015, the HRA began the complex effort to demolish and remediate this abandoned brownfield. Over 5,400 tons of building debris comingled with asbestos was removed from the site. At least nine organizations were involved in the project including the Holyoke Gas & Electric, MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts DEP.

After the site was cleaned, Aegis began its own complicated efforts to take the last standing remnant of the Parsons Paper Company known as Building No. 18 (originally built circa 1915) and transform it into a modern 40,000 square foot production facility and company headquarters. In addition to the new facility, Aegis constructed a solar field on the remainder of the site. This massive undertaking had many challenges but the company can be proud and the city can be thankful for the investment, the building transformation and the preservation of an important part of Holyoke’s indus



Aegis Energy has recently completed an expansion of its business. Submitted photo

Editorial

Leave fireworks alone this year

Everyone loves a celebration with a bang. Whether it's the pop of a champagne cork, the slam of car doors from anticipated party guests, to colorful and patriotic displays of fireworks, seemingly anything worth celebrating ends up with some form of explosive behavior. And what's not to love? Especially on the Fourth of July, the celebration of our nation's independence, there's something special about seeing prolonged, kaleidoscopic displays of fireworks; about hearing the thunderous applause; about feeling the booms, pops and cracks, sometimes from miles away.

Such celebrations truly are spectacular, full-body, sensory experiences. Especially when you don't have to work the next morning. But fireworks, being explosive, are also spectacularly dangerous even when handled appropriately, and this year, with restrictions placed on social gatherings, most permitted displays by licensed professionals have been canceled or postponed to a date to be determined.

The state's Division of Fire Services and Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey reminds residents that fireworks are illegal to possess and transport into Massachusetts, even if legally purchased elsewhere. More importantly, the week of the holiday is historically among the busiest times for fires and children younger than 15-years-of-age account for one-third of the severe burn injuries that require hospital visits.

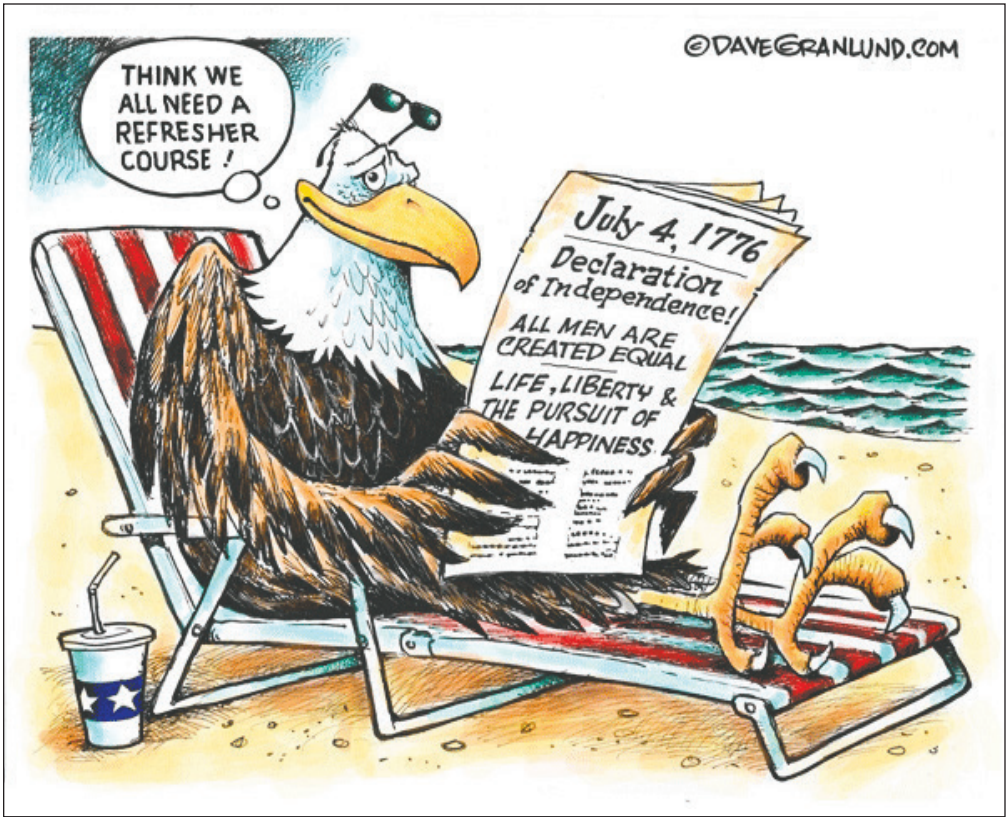
According to DFS data, in the past decade, there have been 858 major fires and explosions resulting in 12 civilian injuries, 40 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.9 million.

Last year, on July 2, 2019, the Taunton Fire Department was called to a fire in a single-family home. The fire began while the homeowner was building wooden racks to launch illegal fireworks from his deck. The racks surrounded him on the deck. One of the fireworks exploded and set off many other fireworks. The detonations ignited the deck. Two days later on the Fourth of July, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a three-unit apartment building. The fire was started by fireworks on the front porch. The following day, July 5, 2019, Boston Fire again responded to a three-unit apartment building when neighbors reported fireworks ignited a fire. The fire began on the back of one building and extended to another three-unit apartment building next door. Twenty people were displaced from their homes by the fires and damages were in excess of \$700,000.

More than a fire hazard, igniting fireworks also poses serious safety risks that can result in injury or death. Even when handled properly by professional crews, explosives don't always go off according to plan and the results can be catastrophic.

According to DFS data, from 2010 to

See FIREWORKS, page 5



Poetry Corner

4th of July – Celebrate Freedom

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Our fourth of July,
A time to remember, all that die.
They gave their lives for you and me
So all generations of Americans could be free.

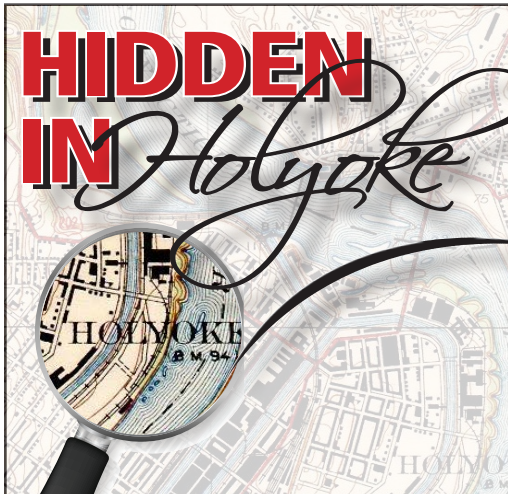
No one likes to go to war
For the odds are you could die
And your children – loved ones, cry
As your coffin goes by.

We must be diligent and persons of honor
As some are evil men – know no truth,
As we should defend our dignity and love
So all can be free.

One would like to say...
No more, no more, no more war,
That would be the final score
But evil sometimes would open the door.

When war – hate end.
Only God knows the road in the bend.
Maybe only prayer and genuine love
And God's goodness from above.

Myself, I just don't know all will go.
Bigger weapons – will others use for defense...
I wish there was more wisdom and less evil.
All one can do... Pray to God... Let this pass.



Each week, *The Holyoke Sun* will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was the Holyoke Soldiers Home.

the Sun
HOLYOKE

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Peter Spotts
pspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"I don't
love studying.
I hate studying.
I like learning.
Learning
is beautiful."

Natalie Portman

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

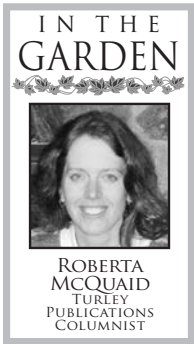
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Weed less by planting groundcovers

It's amazing the amount of growth crabgrass can put on in just a matter of weeks. Although it feels like I was just out there weeding, I must admit that some of my gardens are inundated with it. Had I been a better mulcher this past spring, it's likely I wouldn't have this problem. Unfortunately, however, mulch is only a temporary solution to our weeds. To really be effective in our ornamental gardens it must be "refreshed" or top-dressed each year. This can amount to a great expense if large areas of the yard need to be covered. Instead of mulching so much consider using groundcovers. When used appropriately they can keep down the weeds and add another dimension of interest to the landscape. Best of all, there is one to fit every situation: sun or shade, wet or dry!

One of my favorite groundcovers is Ajuga or bugle weed. It smothers weeds by quickly forming a dense carpet of foliage. The most common type has burgundy leaves and medium blue flower spikes in late spring. Variegated varieties are also available as are those that



bloom in white or pink. It hugs the ground except when in flower. Plant in sun or partial shade anywhere that the soil remains evenly moist. Spring or fall division is fine; set new clumps nine inches or more apart.

Another very effective yet underused groundcover is sweet woodruff. Galium odoratum grows to a height of six to eight inches. Leaves are shiny green, and grow in delicate whorls. When crushed they release a vanilla fragrance. For this reason sweet woodruff was a popular strewing herb during Elizabethan times. It also is the main ingredient in May wine. Tiny, star-shaped flowers are delightful in May and June. Plant in a shady spot where moisture is sufficient. Divisions are best made in the spring months.

Periwinkle or vinca is a well-known groundcover suitable to many locations in the landscape. As long as your soil is well-drained periwinkle will thrive there, whether it be in sun or shade. Shiny, dark green leaves are produced on shoots that root easily along the surface of the soil. In

no time at all a thick mat will form, choking out weeds and even desirable plants in its path. Cut back hard or even mow to keep in check. Quarter-sized violet blue flowers cover the foliage in late spring. Divide anytime but remember to water transplants well until they are established.

Lamium or dead nettle is another groundcover of interest. Both its flowers and variegated foliage make it worthy or cultivation. The term "dead" refers to the plants inability to inflict pain when touched, unlike the other nettle, which of course is aptly named stinging nettle. My two favorite forms of this plant have yellow flowers. Yellow archangel forms more clumps, reaching the height of 10 inches, whereas 'Variegatum' spreads quickly by runners and grows about 14 inches tall. Both have splotched foliage and unique, hooded blooms in late spring. When planted in full sun dead nettle requires moist soil. In shadier locales it tolerates dry soil very well. Utilize it under shade trees where grass will not grow. Underplant with late blooming tulips or daffodils for an incredible show.

For more information on these and other groundcovers, consult "Herbs in

Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press, \$24.95). Great pictures and detailed cultural information will reinvigorate you, even this late in the season, and even if crabgrass has got the best of your garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



ONLINE, from page 1

You can join us with your computer, tablet or phone using the information below.

Tuesday, July 21

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

7/21: <https://bit.ly/31qH98E>

Call in: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 865 4780 9837

Password: 596600

Wednesday, July 22

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

7/22: <https://bit.ly/3glbA4z>

Call in: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 821 1947 9364

Password: 322539

Saluting John Philip Sousa and "Stars and Stripes Forever"

By Joan E. B. Coombs
Guest Columnist



Joan E. B. Coombs

On July 4, 1776, the "Declaration of Independence" was signed declaring our young country's independence from Great Britain. Since 1777, in unofficial and later, with official state and national holidays, families, groups, communities and cities all across the United States of America celebrate our independence with various events.

As part of many public events, wherever John Philip Sousa's famous "The Stars and Stripes Forever" is played--whether in a majestic concert hall, in a school's auditorium or in a parade-marching band-- hearts beat faster, eyes well with tears, hands applaud and salute.

In 1854, America's "March King," composer/conductor Sousa, was born in Washington, D.C. to European immigrant parents: his father of Portuguese parents and his mother of Bavarian parents. John's father played the trombone in the U.S. Marine Band. Growing up John studied and played many instruments. He heard military music in his home as well as in public places.

Sousa attended the Marine band rehearsals with his father, and became an apprentice musician. He joined the Marines at age 26, and became the Marine Band Director for 12 years. In 1892 he started his own Sousa Band and toured American with astounding success.

Often we learn that a personal, heart-wrenching or life-altering event births an emotional response. So it was with the arrival of tragic news in the 40 year-old life of John Philip Sousa.

In 1896, when vacationing in Europe with his wife Jane, and family, Sousa received the terrible news that his good friend and band manager, David Blakely, had died. Immediately he made plans to return to America. While pacing the S.S. Teutonic steamer's deck, the first stirring notes of "Stars and Stripes Forever" kept echoing in his mind. His biography states, "...absorbed in thoughts of my manager's death and the many duties and decision which awaited me in New York...I began to sense a rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued... re-echoing the most distant

melody."

Sousa didn't, or perhaps couldn't, pen a note of music until reaching shore. Then he wrote each measure that his "brain-band played" without a single note ever being changed.

On May 14, 1897, Sousa's first performance in Philadelphia aroused patriotism. The audience stood! A tradition was born! Former Sousa Band members said they were always inspired "by looking into the misty eyes of those in the audience."

In 1917, as America entered World War I, Sousa, then 62, reenlisted, but in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He formed and directed a musical battalion, marched across America in parades raising millions of dollars for the war effort.

When Sousa was asked about his patriotism, he would emotionally reply that his "Stars and Stripes Forever" music was divinely inspired.

On July 4th or whenever and wherever you hear John Philp Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" played, remember the famous patriotic composer and conductor. Stand and patriotically applaud and salute the former Marine and Navy serviceman who loved the United States of America, its red, white and blue flag, and displayed it through his music.

MEALS, from page 1

Maurice A. Donahue School, Holyoke High School North Campus, and Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School. The program will serve breakfast, lunch, a snack, and dinner at all locations, and each location will be open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Meals for Tuesday will be handed out on Monday, Thursday meals will be handed out on Wednesday, and Saturday and Sunday meals will be handed out on Friday.

Although there are only three days to pick up food, families receive multiple days worth of food. This way families are secure in knowing that they will have a meal each day. This program will continue until August 21, and there will be updates online at the Holyoke Schools website. The week of July 4 the meal program will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday as the distribution sites will close for observation on Friday, July 3. The regularly scheduled program and the every-other-day structure will continue the following week.

Those families who participate in

the home delivery option will be able to continue to receive the delivery service throughout the Summer Feeding Program. Though for these deliveries, only breakfast and lunch will be dropped off per USDA regulations. Also, the backpack program that usually runs during the year, will not be run during the summer feeding program. Additionally, the Holyoke Public Schools offers information on their website for the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club Dinner club that will continue to run through the summer. The Dinner Club provides nutritious 'Grab and Go' dinner and snacks.

This program is available to Holyoke youth 18 years and younger throughout the summer, regardless of membership to the Greater Holyoke Boys and Girls Club. These dinners will be served Monday through Friday at various sites. Including Main Club at 70 Nick Cosmos Way from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Beaudoin Village HBGC Satellite Unit at 15 Barret Drive from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and other HBGC Satellite Unit locations. For more information on the holyoke Schools Summer Feeding program or the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club Meal program, visit www.hps.holyoke.ma.us for more information.

REPORT, from page 1

they are the ones who are constantly overworked, underpaid, and the first to be let go when the budget gets tight.

If we spent even a fraction of what we pay to send soldiers to war on caring for them when they get home, these tragedies would be far less likely to occur in the first place."

FIREWORKS, from page 4

2019, 37 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks -- burns covering 5 percent or more of the body. Thirty-three percent were children age 14 or younger. An additional 22 percent were youth aged 15-24. The youngest victim was a 7-month old boy. Victims are scarred for life.

Last year, a 29-year old Charlton man received burns to 9 percent of his body and puncture wounds to his back from a fireworks explosion. State Police confiscated a large cache of illegal fireworks from his home. A 4-year-old Boston girl received severe burns to her hand when grabbing a lit sparkler someone else was holding.

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in

Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks, which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" fireworks. Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs. Sparklers burn at 1,800 F or higher. It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks must be confiscated on the spot.

This year, there is much to celebrate, particularly as the state is seemingly making progress in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Celebrate explosively with friends and family, following public health guidelines, of course. Just leave the real explosives behind and give our emergency responders a break. Together, let's have a safe, healthy and happy Fourth of July.

See CLINIC, page 12

DCR announces start of waterfront services across the commonwealth

Recently, the department opened spray decks, playgrounds, and fitness areas for the public. DCR has also opened Ponkapoag Golf Course in the Town of Canton and Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course in the Town of Weston. In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, DCR-managed golf courses have several new measures in place aiding users with social distancing. Additionally, to inform visitors of COVID-19 impacts on the state parks system, DCR created a Massachusetts State Parks COVID-19 Updates webpage. Prior to visiting a state parks property, members of the public should review the contents of the webpage.

CLUES ACROSS

1. African nation
7. ___ fi (slang)
10. Not arranged according to size
12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game
13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
14. Panama has one
15. Taking legal action
16. Top of the body
17. Part of (abbr.)
18. Soul and calypso song
19. Murres
21. Irish river
22. Accepts as true
27. The Bay State
28. 1950s Hollywood icon
33. Blood type
34. In a way, became lost
36. Large primate
37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
38. Mama ___, folk singer
39. Visual metaphor (computers)
40. Trim by cutting
41. Small group of people
44. Pulitzer-winning scientist
45. Unique S. American mammal
48. Energy, style and enthusiasm
49. One who works for you
50. Snakelike fish
51. Consumers

CLUES DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs
2. Extinct North Germanic language
3. Late rocker Allman
4. Word element meaning ear
5. Amino acid (abbr.)
6. Promotions
7. Actress Lathan
8. Clothed
9. Unwell
10. Loosen
11. Cephalopod mollusks
12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
14. Musical composition
17. Irish bar
18. Greek island
20. Afflict
23. Goes by
24. Ambience
25. Video game manufacturer
26. Surplus Marketing Administration
29. Football position
30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)
31. Furniture with open shelves
32. Clouds of gas in outer space
35. Indian midwife
36. Packers' signal caller
38. Secret political clique
40. Cry weakly
41. Gomer ___, marine
42. Academic Bill of Rights
43. Negatives
44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



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PVSSL ready to play at start of Phase 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is starting to take shape, and if all goes according to plan, the league will be able to start up just after the Fourth of July holiday.

Registration has now closed for the league for the summer and the full schedule of games is being finalized.

Gov. Charlie Baker wanted two weeks of data from Phase 2, part 2, which was centered on allowing limited indoor dining.

Phase 3, at minimum, could have started earlier this week before the slight delay. But trends have continued to be positive in Massachusetts, as well as the nearby Tri-State area.

Once league play begins, it will go through the month of July and into early August with the same eight-team play-off format.

League Commissioners Chris and Diana Kolodziey were adamant since May they wanted to have a season, even if it was delayed or a bit shorter.

The exact game schedule was not available as of press time, but it could be anywhere from six to 10 games. The normal regular season schedule has often been 10 or 11 games. Kolodziey said while the high

school league rarely played games on the weekend, weekends would be utilized this summer in order to fit in as many games as possible.

One difference than in previous years due to many obvious reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The A Division for high school boys will consist of many teams that are normally involved, including Ludlow, Belchertown, Agawam, Wilbraham, and Chicopee. Pittsfield and Enfield are among newcomers to the league this year.

In the girls A Division, West Springfield, last year's champion, leads a field that includes Agawam, South Hadley, Monson, Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Belchertown. Enfield joins the league for the first time.

In the B Division, there are usually more teams. There are much fewer this summer. The Boys league has 12 teams. Palmer, South Hadley, Ludlow C, Agawam, Belchertown, and Wilbraham all have B teams. Enfield also joins with a B team.

The girls B Division will also feature a new Enfield team, along with Chicopee Comp, Granby, Wilbraham B, Ludlow B, Belchertown B, Agawam B, and Hampshire Regional.

See SOCCER, page 8



Valley Wheel League rookie players lineup to take fly balls.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



League veterans hit fly balls to the rookies at the June 28 practice at Blunt Park in Springfield.



Josh Catter throws the ball back to the infield.



Valley Wheel gets ready for July 9 start

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has one final tryout on July 5 at 12 noon at Blunt Park in Springfield. The league still needs players as it plans to resume play with the first game scheduled for Thursday, July 9, and continuing through August.

Questions still surrounding athletics return this fall

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – A fall season is being planned for, but it is still unclear what one might look like under the new landscape of a COVID-19 “new normal.”

According to numerous sources, Massachusetts is just one of a few states that is on a good track to lowering the infection rate of the coronavirus and keeping the healthcare system from being overloaded.

But as individuals wish to “head back on the field,” it leaves a lot of questions, which are jointly being considered by high schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Their first move was to

postpone the use of MaxPreps as a ranking system for teams. It is supposed to a method used to provide uniformity as the state goes to a statewide tournament system and eliminates the sectional tournament format.

In Massachusetts, summers sports like baseball are looking to open up as part of Phase 3 and hold some type of competition.

But schools have still received a lot of guidance for how things will need to look in the fall, leaving a number of schools to consider whether a portion of their learning will be done remotely, as it was done during the past three and a half months.

Schools closer to Boston and possibly schools with

larger populations like in Springfield will have to more seriously consider online options for school. The MIAA will then have to consider what that will do for eligibility requirements to play a sport. They will also have to consider transportation and other elements.

Normally, an individual must attend school by a certain time in order to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day. Many teams also require a player participate in practice the day before in order to be eligible to play. But if a player is not required to physically be in school, how will that be handled by the MIAA?

The “New Normal” until a vaccine has been secured for

the coronavirus will still likely involve requiring individuals to wear masks or face coverings and to socially distance whenever possible.

In certain sports, like football, contact is inevitable. Football also draws large crowds on a Friday night, and those will need to be controlled as well.

The MIAA has already appointed a COVID-19 Task Force that is looking at many of these issues. The Task Force has not held a formal meeting like many of the MIAA sub-committees, but has issued some different guidance on opening sports.

The Pioneer Valley is represented on the committee by Carol Kruser, the principal of

Chicopee High School.

Among the measures that have been brought forward so far: Schools will have the right to choose how their academic eligibility for the fall will be based on since formal grading was set aside during the final three months of the school year. Chemical health suspensions are being waived for the spring. Anyone currently serving any type of suspension will receive credit for “time served” for the spring season.

As of press time, the fall season is scheduled to start on Monday, Aug. 24. Football practices will begin on Friday, Aug. 21. A Q&A done by the MIAA also states that championship venues are set to host games this fall as of now.

Westfield State University planning Owl Golf Tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration for the 14th Annual Owl Club Golf Tournament is now open.

The tournament proceeds support Westfield State University varsity athletics and is slated for Monday, August 3, 2020, at The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, Mass.

“Feedback from our alumni and regular players was overwhelming that they wanted us to run the tournament again this year, even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole. “We consulted with the Ranch, and campus officials, and given that golf is an outdoor activity

that can be conducted within the state’s reopening phases, we’ll run the tournament in the safest, most socially-distant ways we can while following all of the state and local guidelines.”

The tournament will feature an individual cart for each player, and the start is scheduled to have tee times rather than the typical shotgun start in order to limit the size of groups gathering. A maximum of 18 foursomes will be registered this year – half the regular total.

“Registered players will receive a tee gift, get their own cart, lunch will be served on the course, and we will have some contests,” said Caspole, who noted

there will not be a post-tournament dinner, again to limit the gathering size.

“We look forward to seeing the alumni, friends, parents and sponsors who regularly participate in the tournament, and given the disruptions that our student-athletes have faced this year, the funds we raise from the tournament will help to get our programs quickly back on track as we look to restart team competitions this fall,” added Caspole. “Westfield Bank is again our lead sponsor for the tournament, and we can’t thank the bank and president Jim Hagan enough for their support of our athletic programs.

The Ranch is a par-72 championship

layout that plays about 6,500 yards from the tournament tees in a scramble format.

Last year the tournament was won by the group of Mark Litsky, Carlos Frittano, John Harkings, Anthony Perritano with a 58, winning a match of cards tiebreaker with the alumni group of Bob Verdolino, Ralph Barry, Matt Barry, Joe Seckler.

Registration for the tournament is available online at <https://westfieldstateowls.com/owl-club/golf-tournament/index>

Contact Dave Caspole for more registration information or for sponsorship opportunities at dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu or 413-572-5433.

Holyoke rookie makes early impact in Street Stock event

WINCHESTER, NH – This past Saturday, Monadnock Speedway received the green light from the State of New Hampshire to host the 2020 Season Opener. The race teams and fans were excited to finally get back to the track at the high banked ¼ mile.

First feature of the night was the Pure Stocks as Mike Douglas (Northfield, Ma) was the early leader. Bruce Clark (Greenfield, Ma) was all over the back bumper of the Douglas machine as Sammy Silva (Alstead, NH) ran third. Lap 17, a caution flew for Reagan Buffum (Surry, NH) for an overheating issue. On the restart, Douglas and Clark ran side by side as Douglas regained the lead. On the last lap, Clark went to the inside of Douglas coming out of turn four and at the line, it was Clark for the win followed by Douglas, Silva, Damon Roy (Claremont, NH), JD Stockwell (Turners Falls, Ma). In a post race inspection, Clark was disqualified for a rules infraction with the win being rewarded to Douglas.

Mini Stocks came rolling off the track with some competitors not able to make the feature event due to various hard wrecks during the qualifier. Kevin Clayton (Fitzwilliam, NH) led the field early. Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH) ran a close second with Tim Leblanc (Hinsdale, NH) in third. By lap six, Leblanc moved into second and began to challenge Clayton for the lead. Two laps later, Leblanc spun Clayton out of the lead as the caution flew and Leblanc was sent to the rear. Farnum led the field to the restart as Nathan Wenzel (Granby, Ma) and Shelby Avery (Bernardston, Ma) battled for third. Farnum began to cruise away from the rest of the field, Avery looked to the inside of Wenzel for the pass but was denied. At the checkers, it was Farnum followed by Wenzel, Avery, Doug Curry (Norwich, CT) and Leblanc.

Rookie Tim Wenzel (Holyoke, MA) set the pace for the Street Stock feature event. Chris Curtis (Rutland, MA) moved into the lead early as Wenzel attempted to hold off Hillary Renaud (Vernon, CT). Few laps later, Jaret Curtis (Rutland, MA) was knocking on the back bumper of Renaud for third. At the half way mark, Chris Curtis pulled away from the field as Jaret Curtis almost made it three wide for second but backed off as Wenzel remained in second. Lap twenty-two, the caution flew for a flat on Chris Riendeau’s race machine. On the restart, Chris Curtis held the lead as Jaret Curtis moved into second with Jimmy Renfrew (Candia,

NH) glued to his back bumper. Final lap, Chris Curtis took down the victory followed by his son Jared Curtis, Jimmy Renfrew, Chris Buffone and Tim Wenzel.

It was a battle from the past for the Late Model Sportsman feature event as Tyler Lescord (Claremont, NH), Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) and Adam Gray (Granby, Ma) battled it out for the lead. Gray quickly took the lead but felt pressure from Fellows who ran second. Robert Hagar (Windsor, VT) worked on the back bumper of Lescord for third. Lap 10, a caution flew for Camdyn Curtis who hit the front stretch wall. On the restart, Fellows took over the lead. Lap 17, another caution flew for Bill Johnston. On the restart, Fellows continued to lead as Gray and Hagar ran side by side for second. Hagar made the pass as Fellows gained a good lead from the rest of the pack. At the wave of the checkered flag, it was Fellows followed by Hagar, Gray, Justin Littlewood (Athol, Ma) and Lescord.

The NHSTRA Modifieds took the track for the final NASCAR Advanced Auto Parts weekly division of the night. Matt Kimball (Bennington, NH) took the early lead followed by Ben Byrne (Deerfield, Ma) and Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH). An early caution came out for Brad Zahensky in the back stretch wall. The field was able to get in one more lap until the caution flew again for rookie Solomon Brow. On the restart, Kimball continued to lead followed by Robie. Byrne and Trevor Bleau (Troy, NH) battled for third. On lap 13, Kimball was shuffled back to sixth place as Robie took the lead. Lap 16, the caution flew for Kimball who suffered a flat tire. On the restart, the field attempted to complete a lap until Brian Chapin spun in turn four causing multiple cars to head into the pits for repair. On the restart, Robie led the field followed by Byrne, Bleau, Scott MacMichael (Newport, NH) and Todd Patnode (Swanzey, NH). Lap 25, Byrne moved into the inside of Robie and took the lead. On lap 37, the caution was out again as JT Cloutier, who suffered earlier damage from the Chapin spin, spun to the infield. On the restart, the caution flew again for Brow as he headed to pit row. The final restart was single file and on the final lap it was Byrne followed by Robie, Bleau, Kimball and Patnode. In a post race inspection, Byrne was disqualified with first place being awarded to Robie.

This Saturday, racing will return to the high banks of Monadnock Speedway featuring all the weekly divisions. Race Time is at 6PM.

Senior athletes features wrapping up

The Turley Publications sports department will soon be wrapping up its features on senior spring athletes

If you have not seen your senior or their sport featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring’s season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

Valley Wheel Baseball tryouts ongoing

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league

still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. League tryouts are June 28 with a possible additional tryout scheduled. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. New players are still needed for the abbreviated season.

Quabbin League hoping for July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the

season going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor’s re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

SOCCKER, from page 8

The Men’s league will have just seven teams, including Lusitano Red and White and the Rumbleseat.

Griffin’s Café is also a returning team.

The women’s division includes the Lusitano Women, Here For Beer, WMass XTremes, and Santos among returning teams.

UCC, from page 1

After suspending in-person worship services in mid-March due to the Coronavirus outbreak, pastor Chuck Morkin began looking for a way to bring UCC’s weekly worship services to his congregants in their homes. After some trial and error, he and his wife Bobbie started streaming the worship services live on YouTube. The video of each worship service is saved to the YouTube channel after the initial broadcast, and a link is posted on the church’s Facebook page each Sunday evening.

The UCC Holyoke YouTube Channel can be easily found by searching for “UCC Holyoke” on

YouTube, or by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWCy2c10RQgIvIzXHOQEoDA>. Viewers are encouraged to subscribe to the channel so they can be notified of every live stream.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you’d like to learn more about UCC Holyoke, please visit our website at www.uccholyokeye.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
15 KV PADMOUNTED
THREE-WAY SWITCHGEAR

Sealed bids for the above named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., July 24, 2020** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 335-0148

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes “**15 kV Padmounted Three-Way Switchgear**” and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric
Department
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
7/03/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P0980EA
Estate of:
Richard P Cauley
Date of Death:
October 22, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Janice Cauley** of Holyoke, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Janice Cauley of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory

and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 7/03/2020

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC
HEARING WEBINAR
Project File No. 604209

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 & shared use path in Holyoke and West Springfield, MA.

WHEN: July 15, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 and shared use path project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project consists of two locations; the first location includes concrete pavement rehabilitation and full depth replacement along the Route 5 corridor beginning at Main Street in Holyoke, MA, and ending at the Interstate 91 interchange in West Springfield, MA. The second location includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements beginning at Monterey Drive and ending at East Elm Street. The proposed improvements consist of narrowing the roadway from Main street to Highland Avenue, realignment of Brush Hill Avenue and Wayside Avenue to form “T” intersections, traffic improvements, a shared use path, bicycle

accommodations, drainage and utility modifications and ADA/AAAB crossing enhancements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the webinar.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 604209. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing webinar. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing webinar. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857) 368-8580, fax (857) 368-0602, TTD/TTY (857) 368-0603 or by email MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting. Hearing webinar cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at: <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A.
LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
7/03, 7/10/2020

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
POWER PIPING SYSTEMS
& HVAC MAINTENANCE,
INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS
ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **1:30 p.m., July 24, 2020** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:
A Bid Deposit of \$10,000, must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer’s, or cashier’s check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the MA Dept. of Labor & Industries.

DCAMM:
A Certificate of Eligibility in the Mechanical Systems & Plumbing categories from the MA Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance, as well as an Update Statement is required. Plumbing and Gas Fitter Contractors must be licensed by the MA Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
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Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P0956EA
Estate of:
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Also Known As:
Russell E. Slocomb
Date of Death:
May 16, 2020
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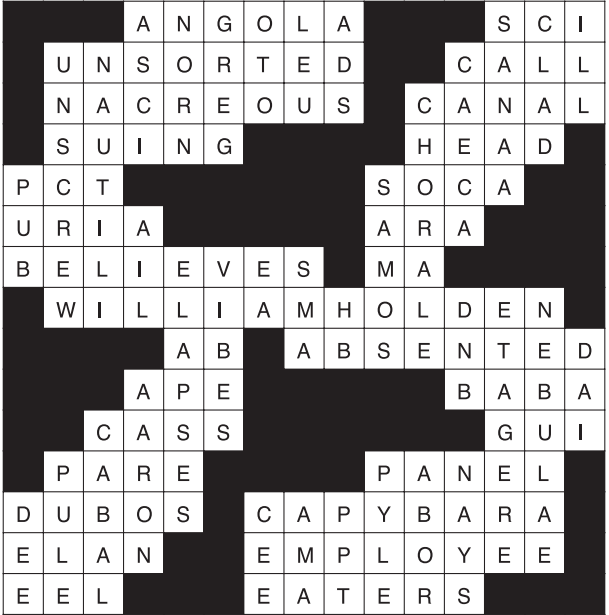
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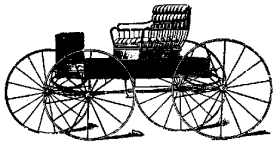
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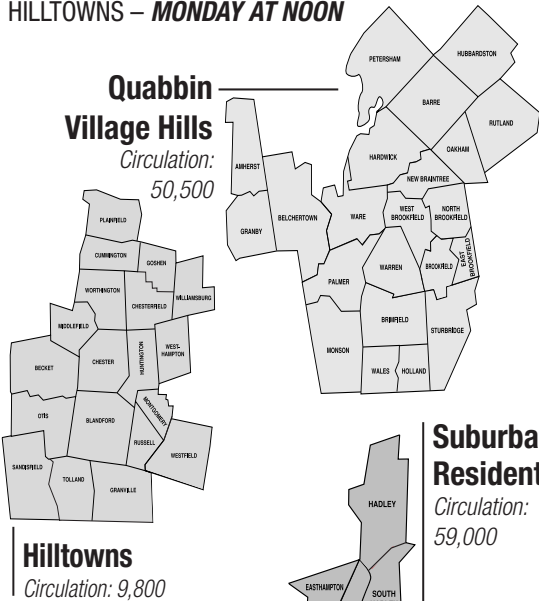
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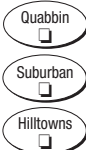
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EWICK, from page 1

boat tips, meaning everyone has a role and those roles are important.

Along with helping parents and meeting with staff, Ewick hosted a virtual ceremony in order to see and say goodbye to some of her students.

“It’s bittersweet because not being in School since March was hard, and I didn’t get the opportunity to see my kids off for the last time.” Ewick said.

Ewick has helped to plan a Step-up Ceremony for the 2020 eighth graders on Aug. 18, where the ceremony will be held outside and follow current health and safety guidelines.

Usually the ceremony is held in the last week of school during June, with refreshments and a cluttered space. This ceremony will be held outdoors and there will be no pictures, refreshments, hugs, or much talking afterwards.

Though it’s not the ceremony everyone imagined, it’s better than not having one at all.

“It’s what we do, it’s what we’ve always done.” Ewick said. “So it’s what we’re going to do now.” Ewick and a

team of staff created a message in lights on the side of the McMahon School, they also put lights on sections of the fence with messages written in cups. They wanted to find a way to celebrate the students hard work.

Things were not typical this past school year, as Ewick has never seen something like this pandemic before.

“There’s been cases of kids getting the flu and staying home, resulting in low attendance.” Ewick said. “But I have never, ever seen anything like this before. Nothing that shut down an entire school system.”

Though this year was the same, Ewick has had more than twenty years of regular school years. She explains that being an elementary school teacher for sixth graders was very rewarding. Some of her favorite times and moments were as a Science and Social Studies teacher, Ewick explains that younger kids are ‘cooky’ and enthusiastic and they enjoy diving into new things.

“It’s fun to see the younger kids group together and tell their classmates what they like about their work and why.” Ewick said. “Seeing kids develop and grow is so amazing and being able to

build a relationship with my students was very rewarding.”

To Ewick the most rewarding things in education are the relationships she’s able to make with her students, especially being the principle and having a wider range of students to look out for. This is part of the reason that it was hard for Ewick to retire, as the COVID-19 pandemic ‘threw a wrench in her plans. Ewick remembers the conversation with Dr. Zrike about retiring as being emotional and heartwarming, and the decision was a hard one to make.

Through all these changes, Ewick has constantly tried to keep a relationship with students, while also establishing hands-on learning. Like her mantra, kids have groups for their project and every idea contributes to the final work. All ideas are important, and everyone has a role to fill and something to contribute. These relationships between students and teachers along with students and each other, are something that is eternal in the school system. These also being the reasons it was hard to leave.

“I look forward to traveling, I’ve gone to Iceland recently and I’d love to go back. I also want to Kayak more

and go to more places, I want to adventure and be with my family.” Ewick said. “I want to continue in Education somehow but I also want to keep traveling once everything opens up and I’m able to again.”

Though things changed at the end of this year, Ewick was able to keep her staff and students together. Trying her best to connect with as many staff and students as possible. The staff in return helped to plan a retirement parade for Ewick, inviting her friends and family along for the ride. They drove by Ewick’s house and shouted encouragement from their cars, celebrating with Ewick although people could not gather. In return there was a trunk-or-treat like ceremony for the other four teachers who are retiring this year. The end has been hard and strange but Ewick looks forward to visiting McMahon again to help her eighth graders step-up, and to say goodbye to the rest of her students and faculty.

“I’ve missed seeing them off to the bus for the last time. giving them hugs and high fives too.” Ewick said. “It’s been very bittersweet and I just cannot wait to see my students again.”

GRANT, from page 1

Specifically, the design and pilot year initiatives are supported by the Barr Foundation through its Engage New England: Doing High School Differently initiative, a \$30-million investment over five years to help New England educators bring new high school models to life in communities across the region, stated Executive Director of Opportunity Academy Michael Buhl.

During the design year, with the support of its partner Springpoint Schools, Opportunity Academy deeply analyzed its assets and areas of growth in three specific areas: engaging learning experiences, transformational relationships, and post-secondary preparation. The acad-

emy’s design team also participated in site visits led by Springpoint Schools to several schools in the Northeast, learning from best practices; and researching the national landscape of secondary schools’ efficacy in truly preparing students for college and career opportunities. From these experiences, OA developed a plan of action with three buckets of work:

Deliberately and thoughtfully begin an overhaul of curriculum to center Transformative Learning Experiences -- units of study that are project-based and connect students to experts in the community culminating in living artifacts exhibited to authentic audiences.

Shift towards a competency-based model that values student growth, feedback, and common language among stakeholders over traditional grading sys-

tems.

Partnership with The Alianza Project, a healing-centered clinical practice, delivering direct clinical services to students; and empowering youth through peer mentor training, and as leaders of professional development for their educators, through their Youth Leadership Squad.

With the support of the grant, Opportunity Academy will begin implementing the plan of action at its Maple Street Campus beginning this summer and extending through the 2020-2021 School Year. This work will be led by members of the school design team:

Geoffrey Schmidt - School Design Lead

Michael Buhl - Executive Director, OA

Nicole McNiel - Instructional Teacher Lead

Chris Smidy - Student Support Lead

Jason Mark - Student Support Lead

TBD - Student Design Lead

“Throughout my experience on the design team, I really built my confidence as a student leader,” stated Jonathan Agosto, 2020 Graduate, and Student DesignTeam Member. “I learned I could use my voice and my experiences to create change not only at my own school but at all schools. By participating in the design work and site visits I learned so much about what is possible in education and felt like I made a major difference creating change at OA.”

We are grateful to the Barr Foundation for their generosity and support of this important work.

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Lesser attends virtual town hall with ERC5

EAST LONGMEADOW – State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow), recently attended a virtual town hall hosted by the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce, offering legislative updates and answering questions about reopening and recovery in Massachusetts. The conversation was moderated by Joseph Lawler, of Wilbraham, legislative chair of the Executive Committee.

The COVID-19 epidemic has sparked a health crisis along with a dire economic crisis, especially for our small, locally owned businesses and their employees,” Lesser said. “It is essential that the state works to support our small business com-

munity and their employees, who have faced widespread closure and layoff due to no fault of their own. Working alongside the ERC5, we must ensure our economy not only recovers, but continues to grow in the months and years ahead.” Nancy Connor, ERC5 executive director, said the organization was happy to have hosted the forum with Lesser, giving the business community a chance to learn the state’s plan for reopening safely and efficiently.

“We at the ERC5 appreciate Sen. Lesser’s steadfast commitment balancing public health and economic interest when advocating for the best path forward for our business community in Western Mass.,” she said.

“It is essential that the state works to support our small business community and their employees, who have faced widespread closure and layoff due to no fault of their own.”

- Sen. Eric Lesser



State Sen. Eric Lesser takes questions from members of the ERC5 during a virtual town hall. PHOTO SUBMITTED

U.S. Navy conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation

CARIBBEAN SEA – While peacefully operating in the Caribbean Sea, the U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94) conducted a freedom of navigation operation, contesting an excessive maritime claim by Venezuela.

Paul Nitze was born in Amherst and served as the 54th Secretary of the Navy under Lyndon B. Johnson. The USS Nitze is his namesake.

The U.S. Navy ship conducted the operation in international waters outside Venezuela’s 12 nautical-mile territorial jurisdiction. During the operation, the ship lawfully navigated an area the illegitimate Maduro regime falsely claims to have control over, a claim that is inconsistent with international law.

The U.S. Navy routinely conducts freedom of navigation operations around the world to preserve the maritime navigation and access rights guaranteed to all nations and vital to the global mobility of

U.S. forces. Global access to international waters protects U.S. national interests, promotes a just international order, and ensures the U.S. Navy can accomplish key missions, including humanitarian assistance deployments, disaster relief operations, support to international counter-narcotics efforts and multinational exercises that strengthen regional partnerships. U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships are currently operating in the Caribbean as part of the President’s enhanced counter narcotics operation.

“The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows, preserving the rights, freedoms and lawful use of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations,” said Adm. Craig Faller, Commander of U.S. Southern Command. “These freedoms are the bedrock of ongoing security efforts, and essential to regional peace and stability.”

United Way begins distributing food

SPRINGFIELD – Starting on Tuesday, June 30, the United Way of Pioneer Valley will start distributing hundreds of boxes of shelf stable food items to community partner agencies for distribution to potentially thousands of needy clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boxes of shelf-stable food have been secured through United Way’s relationship with MEMA as they distribute food throughout the Commonwealth in response to the ongoing pandemic. The first truckload will arrive at our headquarters at 1441 Main Street, Springfield on June 30 at 10 a.m., and media are wel-

come to attend. Paul Mina, President and CEO of United Way of Pioneer Valley, said, “We are honored to play a part in the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 response efforts. We have worked with MEMA closely in their relief efforts for Hampden County and are happy to continue to help.” United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community’s most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results. For more information, visit uwpv.org.

CLINIC, from page 6

University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm>. Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent,

coeducational institution. Located on an 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Western New England serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the School of Law.

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Advertising Sales
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